

[20th October 1927]

- (c), (d) & (f) The provision of an adequate supply of drinking-water in the area under its control is primarily the duty of the local board concerned. The Government have made the following grants for the improvement of the water-supply in the rural areas of the Salem district during the past two years :—

		Amount allotted.	Amount spent.
		RS.	RS.
1925-26	20,000	16,116
1926-27	8,634	8,634
1927-28	6,329	...

The Government are considering the question of making an additional grant for the same purpose during the current year and of further grants in subsequent years.

The Government do not propose to take any other steps for the improvement of the water-supply in the Namakkal taluk. It is for the taluk board concerned to sink the required number of wells, meeting the expenditure involved from its own funds and such funds as may be placed at its disposal by the district board out of the Government grants.

- (e) The question of supplying Namakkal with drinking-water from Mettur does not seem to have been considered. The Government have considered the possibility of supplying water for the irrigation of 27,000 acres of land in the Salem district from Mettur ; but the idea has been given up as serious engineering difficulties would be involved and the proposal would not be financially profitable. The Government do not propose to make the investigation now.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ For the benefit of Members who were not present when the names were called, I will now take the House through the second round of questions.”

Inferior Service

Pay of dufterbunds in Tahsildars' offices and Stationary Magistrates' courts

* 768 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the ‘dufterbunds’ in the Tahsildars’ offices and the Stationary Magistrates’ courts are generally made to do the work of clerks also ; and

(b) whether, having regard to this fact, the Government intend raising the pay of these ‘dufterbunds’ from Rs. 12—18 to Rs. 25—35 ?

A.—(a) & (b) If by the term ‘dufterbunds’ attenders are meant, the hon. Member is referred to the answers to clauses (b), (c) and (d) of question No. 2444 given in the Legislative Council on 2nd September 1926.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—“ May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether, before the introduction of this scale in 1920 and before the School Final was fixed as the minimum qualification, these dufterbunds or attenders were not in some cases acting as clerks ? ”

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The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" A great number of unpassed people were acting as clerks and I have no doubt that some dufterbunds were also amongst them."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether among them there were not people who had passed the Village Officers test ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Very possibly, Sir. But I do not know for certain."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether there are not among them men with fifteen years service and more ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am not able to understand how all these questions arise."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Sir, they arise for this reason. The answer refers to an earlier answer and the question that has been asked is whether they were not doing the work of clerks and whether the increments should not be given to them."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The qualifications of these persons do not arise on this question."

Irrigation (Water-rate)

Renewal of the contract with the Tinnevely Mills, Limited.

* 712 Q.—Mr. CHAVADI K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI : With reference to the answers given to questions No. 839 (a) to (e) answered on 31st March 1927, will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the owners of lands irrigated under the Kodaimelalagyan anicut against the renewal of licence to the Tinnevely Mills, Limited; and what relief is proposed to be given to them;

(b) whether the Government have consented to storage by the Mills in a large reservoir of water overnight and thus delaying the return of water forthwith to the river;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the quantity of power generated and used by the Mills with the water from the Papanasam falls;

(d) whether the Government have taken advice from technical experts about the relative cost of water power as generated and used by the Mills, and of the same quantity of power from any other power producer such as steam and oil engines;

(e) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay it on the table;

(f) if the Government have not taken such advice, why has not such advice been taken and whether the Government are prepared to take such advice now at least; and

(g) whether the Government will be pleased to postpone the renewal of the contract with the Tinnevely Mills, Limited, till after full enquiries as to the adequacy of the rent reserved by the Government and till after discussion of the matter in the Legislative Council?